

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 23-33 have been added. Accordingly, claims 23-33 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 23, 27 and 30 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. For example, such support for the added claims may be found at least in FIG. 10 to FIG. 21 and their corresponding descriptive portion of the specification.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, Claims 13 and 14 have been objected to for informalities. In this response, claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection for claims 13 and 14.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,064,358 issued to Kitajima, *et al.* ("Kitajima"). Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection. In this response, claim 1 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In this response, claim 2 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 2.

Claims 3-10 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,421,039 to Moon, et al. ("Moon"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In this response, claims 3-10 and 21-22 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 3-10 and 21-22.

Claims 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of Moon, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,748,165 to Kubota, et al. ("Kubota"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In this response, claims 11-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 11-20.

Added Claims

In this response, claims 23-33 have been newly added, of which claims 23, 27 and 30 are independent. An exemplary embodiment of claims 23-26 is shown in FIG. 10 to FIG. 13 of the present application. An exemplary embodiment of claims 27-29 is shown in FIG. 14 of the present application. An exemplary embodiment of claims 30-33 is shown in FIG. 15 to FIG. 21 of the present application.


CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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